(iv) Funding research and development programme undertaken, by various Institutions for fuller exploitation of oil from oil-bearing materials.

(v) Providing financial assistance for modernisation of huller rice mills.

(vi) Allowing manufacturing and marketing of blended oils consisting of any two edible vegetable oils etc.

Steep increase in conversion and packing charges

1167. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have steeply increased packing material, conversion and packing charges recently;

(b) if so, on what basis packing material costs have been increased;

(c) whether it is a fact that sale rates of suppliers of packing materials have not been varified before affecting the increase;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) what are the names of the units which give the data for increase in conversion cost and packing charges and who studied this data; and

(f) what are the details of basis on which increases have been given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has informed that increases in Packing Material Costs, Conversion and packing charges were necessitated by overall inflationary conditions.

(b) to (f) Government's decision with regard to costs of packing material used in formulations are based on the recommendations of BICP which are of confidential nature.

Supply line of Public Distribution System

1168. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to strengthen the supply line of Public Distribution System of commodities in remote areas, Government have asked the State Governments to construct capacity godowns in these areas; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance to be provided to State Governments on this accounts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. They have been advised to construct/hire such godowns as per need assessed by them for areas identified for revamped ■ PBS.

(b) A provision of Rs. 250 crores have been made in the budget estimates for 1992-93 towards additional subsidies on foodgrains, and construction of godowns in these areas.

Compassionate Employment to the Dependents of the deceased Workers of BCCL.

1169. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers of BCCL who died in harness between the date of take over the collieries by Government and 1st January, 1979 in BCCL indicating the details thereof;

(b) the number of dependents of the deceased workers who got employment during this period on compassionate ground and the details thereof;

(c) whether special compensation is being given to those left out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dumping of coal by Transport Contractor

1170. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the regular dumping of coal on the roadside near Alakdiha village of Dhanbad by the transport contractor while carrying coal from Kuya Colliery to the authorised coal dump in BCCL ;

(b) if so, the details thereof giving the names of the transport contractor and the other parties involved in the theft;

(c) whether it is a fact that the youths of Alakdiha village intervened in the process and seized some 20 tons of coal and handed it over to the management on 8th March, 1992;

. (d) whether local management, adniiuis tration, transport contractor and the mafias of the area are jointly involved in this racket ; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creating a Female protection force in CCL and BCCL.

1171. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to raise a female protection force in Central Coalfields Limited and BCCL to prevent theft of coal and to give gainful employment to the females on roll; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) and (b) A female security wing raised from the surplus able-bodied female workers has been constituted in Central Coalfields Limited for deployment in coal depots to prevent theft of coal as well as for gainful utilisation of surplus female work force. No such proposal has been contemplated in Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

1172. *[Transferred to the nth May,* 1992]

Private Sector Participation in Lignite mining

1173. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the participation of private sector in lignite mining and coal mining ;

(b) whether the mining in these sectors is exclusively reserved for public sector;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the related act and to assign the mining task to private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) Coal/ Lignite mining is at present reserved for public sector with the exceptions of captive mining and consumption by Iron & Steel Industry and mining in small isolated pockets, not amenable to economical development and not requiring rail transport. However, a proposal for allowing captive coal mines to selected consumer (e.g. Power) units of private sector for captive consumption is under consideration of the Government.

Demonstration by Hind Knadan Mazdoor Federation

1174. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal miners belonging to Hind Khadan Mazdoor